

03500.017754.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
MASAO KATO, et al.) Examiner: S. Meier
Application No.: 10/725,397) Group Art Unit: 2853
Filed: December 3, 2003)
For: IMAGE PROCESSING)
APPARATUS AND IMAGE)
PROCESSING METHOD) September 1, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the non-U.S. patent documents is enclosed.

- 1) U.S. Patent No. 6,542,642
- 2) U.S. Patent No. 6,148,031
- 3) U.S. Patent No. 5,289,293
- 4) U.S. Patent No. 5,351,137
- 5) U.S. Patent No. 6,665,446
- 6) U.S. Patent No. 5,949,965
- 7) U.S. Patent No. 5,973,803
- 8) U.S. Patent No. 5,661,570
- 9) U.S. Patent No. 6,188,492
- 10) U.S. Patent No. 6,738,160
- 11) U.S. Publication No. 2003/0174345
- 12) U.S. Publication No. 2003/0174352

- 13) U.S. Publication No. 2002/0097456
- 14) Japan 10-200724
- 15) Japan 2002-51212
- 16) Japan 8-46784
- 17) Japan 8-307680
- 18) Japan 8-279920
- 19) Japan 11-10918
- 20) Japan 9-139841
- 21) Japan 2002-171407

22) R. Floyd et al., "An Adaptive Algorithm for Spatial Grayscale", SID Symposium Digest of Paper, pp. 36-37, (1975).

It is noted that document 9 is a U.S. counterpart for document 14, document 8 is a U.S. counterpart for document 16, document 7 is a U.S. counterpart for document 18, document 6 is a U.S. counterpart for document 19, and document 13 is a U.S. counterpart for document 21. The concise explanation of relevance for each of documents 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21 is believed to be satisfied by the U.S. counterparts.

English-language abstracts for each of documents 15, 17 and 20 have been located and are enclosed for the Examiner's consideration. The concise explanation of relevance for each of these non-English language documents is believed to be satisfied by the English language abstracts. See MPEP § 609.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449 and returning the initialed form to Applicant with the next communication.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY DOCKET NO.
03500.017754.APPLICATION NO.
10/725,397

APPLICANT

MASAO KATO, et al.

FILING DATE

December 3, 2003

GROUP

N/Y/ALIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

SEP 02 2004

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| | 6,542,642 | 04/01/03 | Takizawa et al. | 382 | 236 | |
| | 6,148,031 | 11/14/00 | Kato | 375 | 240.13 | |
| | 5,289,293 | 02/22/94 | Kato et al. | 358 | 457 | |
| | 5,351,137 | 09/27/94 | Kato et al. | 358 | 457 | |
| | 6,665,446 | 12/16/03 | Kato | 382 | 251 | |
| | 5,949,965 | 09/07/99 | Gondek | 395 | 109 | |
| | 5,973,803 | 10/26/99 | Cheung et al. | 358 | 534 | |
| | 5,661,570 | 08/26/97 | Nomura | 358 | 456 | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| JP | 10-20074 | 07/31/98 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| JP | 2002-51212 | 02/15/02 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| JP | 8-46784 | 02/16/96 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| JP | 8-307680 | 11/22/96 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| JP | 8-279920 | 10/22/96 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| JP | 11-10918 | 01/19/99 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| JP | 9-139841 | 05/27/97 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| JP | 2002-171407 | 06/14/02 | Japan | | | Abstract |

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | R. Floyd et al., "An Adaptive Algorithm for Spatial Grayscale", SID Symposium Digest of Paper, pp. 36-37, (1975). |
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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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|---|--|--------------------|----------|---|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017754. | | APPLICATION NO. 10/725,397 | |
| | | | | APPLICANT MASAO KATO, et al. | | | |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 6,188,492 | 02/13/01 | Bungo et al. | 358 | 486 | |
| | | 6,738,160 | 05/18/04 | Kato et al. | 358 | 1.9 | |
| | | 2003/0174345 | 09/18/03 | Kato et al. | 358 | 1.2 | |
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